

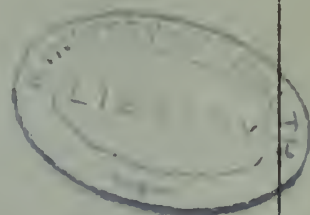
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W Y C O M B E
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

1952



W Y C O M B E
R U R A L D I S T R I C T C O U N C I L

A N N U A L R E P O R T
of the
M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H
and the
S A N I T A R Y I N S P E C T O R S


1952

Medical Officer of Health:

F.H.M. DUMMER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Lond).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

J.P. PERRY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.



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WYCOMBEE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

1952

Chairman:

Mr E.J. West.

Vice-Chairman:

Mrs M.G. Woollerton.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

at 1st May, 1952.

Chairman:

Mr G.B. Lee.

The Chairman of the Council.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council.

The Ex-Chairman

The Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The Chairman of the Public Works Committee.

Mr T.C. Austin.

Mr C. Morris.

Mr L. Bone.

Mrs F.H. Pitcher.

Mr H.W. Bristow.

Mr W.J. Tapping.

Rev. J.D. Charlesworth.

Mrs C.G. Troughton.

Mr D.C. Davis.

Mrs D. Walker.

Mr D. Dodwell.

Mrs C. Wonter.

Brig.Gen. E.S. Hoare-Nairne.

Mr R.M.E. Inchbald.

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

F.H.M. DUMMER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Lond).

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

J.P. PERRY, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A. Meat Certificate.

Sanitary Inspectors:

D.J. SULLIVAN, M.S.I.A.

T. LAWSON.

J. BREWSTER.

Clerk:

Miss R.M. SPENCER.

Rodent Operative:

E.V. BOWLER.

WYCOMBE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

July, 1952.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Fifth Annual Report as your
Council's Medical Officer of Health.

The phrase "health of the community" embraces standards of
comparison which are broad and indeed controversial: but if we
arbitrarily chose factual statistical analyses as our yard
stick, there are certain basic rates which must be "satisfactory"
as compared with the general prevailing rates. The main basis
of comparison rests on four rates

- (1) the infantile mortality rate
- (2) the birth rate
- (3) the tuberculosis rate
- (4) the death rate

The infantile mortality rate for 1952 is 23.5 per 1,000
related births, compared with a general rate for England and
Wales of 27.6.

The unadjusted birth rate is 15.7 compared with the
general rate of 15.3.

This year has seen a new record in the small number of new cases of tuberculosis, i.e. 27 compared with 38 in 1951. The death rate is 9.9 compared with a general rate of 11.3.

On those four basic rates therefore, Wycombe Rural District holds its own, and holds it well, in the country as a whole, as being a "healthy community".

But such figures should not be left as isolated, cold statistical facts. Behind such an achievement is a record of work and planning both in the community as a corporate body and in the individual homes.

An instance of this is tuberculosis. I am going to step out of the cautious official role for a moment, to say dogmatically "If you want to achieve a record in the reduction of cases of tuberculosis, you have got to plan for it - in bricks and mortar". There is no surer way of conquering the potential onslaught of tubercle than by providing houses for the overcrowded, and for those often not so overcrowded, but living under insanitary conditions. You cannot give them homes, those have to be created out of the standards of living and the ideal of happiness the occupants set for themselves. Today the death rate from tuberculosis is lower than ever, but curative medicine is a kind of base hospital, far behind the front line. The front line is on the doorstep of every insanitary or overcrowded dwelling, with its low standard of living and its makeshift structure of existence. A low death rate does not mean very much unless the toll of human misery reflected in the morbidity figures is also dealt a crushing blow.

To your credit, you, as a Council, have been bold and imaginative in your building programme. Your critics may well say you have penalised even a future generation by the mounting cost of your endeavours. But on your side you are well entitled to say "We have also given them the basic means of a happy family life, where children can be brought up in decent surroundings, and where standards of living exist, which, but for our building programme, would never have been possible."

Once again, heart disease represents the highest percentage of single causes of death, amounting to one-third of the total. The vast majority of such deaths fall in the age-group 65+, a fact which underlines the trend of a population which is ageing rapidly.

The aggregate for cancer deaths - 72 - remains as in 1951 but the number of deaths due to lung cancer has almost doubled in the past year. Deaths due to breast cancer has risen from 2 in 1951 to 10 in 1952. These trends cannot be adequately explained in the present state of our knowledge of this disease. In the case of lung cancer, much has been written on the relationship to smoking, especially cigarette smoking, but clear proof is still lacking and I doubt whether any survey has done more than brought to light this relationship as a possibility. From the accompanying table on "Lung Cancer Deaths" you will note that, in this District at least, the highest mortality rate is still borne by the age-group of 60-80.

Although 1951 was not a "measles year", measles was nevertheless the most prominent notified disease, followed by whooping cough as a poor second. In all, the number of diseases notified, was less than 50% of 1951's total. The highest increase was in poliomyelitis, with 3 paralytic and 9 non-paralytic cases. In this group there was one fatality. From the experience of the last seven or eight years, we have been forced to the conclusion that poliomyelitis has more or less "come to stay". The only real attack we can make on this disease at the moment, is to be guided by the general principles of preventive medicine, with good hygiene as the corner stone.

One of the principal measures of protection against the more serious form of poliomyelitis, is the prevention of over tiredness in children in the summertime. I am acutely aware that it is also one of the most difficult to enforce but the careful parent is warned to be on guard against the signs of strain in a child e.g. fretfulness, lack of appetite, headaches, and muscle pains. The present day incidence of poliomyelitis has made its former name "Infantile Paralysis" a misnomer. It is NOT restricted to infancy or even childhood and is NOT necessarily manifest in the form of paralysis.

In the field of preventive measures, I would again stress that there are at least two major diseases which are easily preventable i.e. diphtheria and smallpox. In neither case is it sufficient to rely on infancy vaccination or immunisation. Regular "boosting" of the immunity at at least 4 - 5 year intervals is the ideal.

The present relative immunity which the community enjoys is related to the "barrier" of prophylaxis created by millions of vaccinated or immunised persons. Once that barrier weakens, we may once again be threatened by a very real menace of the prevalence of diphtheria and smallpox.

In 1942, over 41,000 cases of diphtheria were notified. Ten years later there were only 274 cases in the first nine months of 1952, (provisional figures). An indication of the mortality decrease in England and Wales is shown as follows:-

	1938	1941	1944	1947	1950	1952+
Deaths	2,861	2,641	934	244	49	31

+ provisional

No further words of mine are needed to underline the victory achieved by immunisation.

The work of your Authority entails much more than the compilation of statistics and the enunciation of principles of hygiene. In the environmental field we have the problems of house repair, the abatement of overcrowding, the protection of public water supplies, the constant checking of standards in catering establishments, rodent control, sanitary inspections of caravan sites and a host of day to day problems which never hit the headlines.

In the accompanying report by the Chief Sanitary Inspector you will note that the work of the Public Health Department covers as wide a field of responsibility to the public as can be found anywhere in local administration.

In this respect I would especially commend to your attention his comments on "Housing" and "Sanitation". Under those two headings come the basic amenities of life and it is there that a standard of living is primarily constructed.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Staff of the Public Health Department for their work and willing co-operation throughout the year: also your Public Health Committee for their interest and support.

I am,

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies
and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F.H.M. DUMMER.

STATISTICS.

Area of Wycombe Rural District (in acres).....	71,232
Resident population (1931 census).....	27,495
Resident population (1951 census).....	39,352
Registrar General's Estimate of population mid-1952..	40,680
No. of inhabited houses on rate book (31st March 1952)	11,628
Rateable Value.....	£244,845
Estimated Product of Penny Rate.....	£952

EXTRACT FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS

FOR THE YEAR 1952

BIRTHS.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	309	301	610
	Illegitimate	20	9	29
	Totals	329	310	639
Still Births	Legitimate	1	3	4
	Illegitimate	0	0	0
	Totals	1	3	4

Comparability Factor - Birth Rate.....	1.01
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Population.	15.7
Birth Rate of England and Wales.....	15.3
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Estimated Population..	0.09
Still Birth Rate of England and Wales.....	0.35
Adjusted local Birth Rate.....	16.06

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	208
		Females	-	194
		Total	-	<u>402</u>
Comparability Factor.....				0.96
Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated population.....				9.9
Death Rate of England and Wales.....				11.3
Tuberculosis Death Rate, Wycombe Rural District.....				0.07
Tuberculosis Death Rate, England and Wales.....				0.24
Adjusted Local Death Rate.....				9.5

INFANT MORTALITY.

15 infants died under the age of one year.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.....	10	5	15
Illegitimate.....	0	0	0
Total.....	<u>10</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>15</u>

This represents a mortality rate of 23.5 per 1,000 related births, compared with 27.6 as a general figure for England and Wales.

Neo-natal mortality rate - 12.5, compared with a county rate of 17.5.

CANCER DEATHS.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages):-

Males	-	41
Females	-	31
Total	-	<u>72</u>

Yearly comparison of cancer deaths:-

1952.....	72
1951.....	72
1950.....	77
1949.....	62
1948.....	65
1947.....	69

The following organs were affected:-

Stomach.....	7
Lungs.....	15
Breast.....	10
Uterus.....	2
Other Sites.....	38
Total.....	<u>72</u>

LUNG CANCER DEATHS 1947 - 1952.

Age-groups	No. involved.			Age-groups. Percentage of Total			
	M	F	M & F Total	M	F	M & F Total	
30 - 40 years	1	1	2	1.92	7.69	3.08	
40 - 50 years	5	-	5	9.61	-	7.69	
50 - 60 years	13	-	13	25.0	-	20.0	
60 - 70 years	17	3	20	32.69	23.08	30.77	
70 - 80 years	15	9	24	28.86	69.23	36.92	
80 - 90 years	1	-	1	1.92	-	1.54	
Total	52	13	65	100	100	100	
	Male		Female		Male & Female		
Mean Age	63 years		68 years		64 years		
Age Range	35 - 81 years		39 - 76 years		35 - 81 years		
	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	Total
Lung Cancer Deaths	8	14	15	6	7	15	65

TABLE OF DEATHS.

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	0	1
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	2	0	2
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	0	0	0
4. Diphtheria.....	0	0	0
5. Whooping Cough.....	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal Infections.....	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.....	0	1	1
8. Measles.....	0	0	0
9. Other infectious diseases.....	1	0	1
10. Cancer, stomach.....	5	2	7
11. Cancer, lungs.....	12	3	15
12. Cancer, breast.....	0	10	10
13. Cancer, uterus.....	0	2	2
14. Other cancers.....	24	14	38
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	0	1	1
16. Diabetes.....	1	1	2
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	27	38	65
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	30	20	50
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	5	6	11
20. Other heart diseases.....	28	46	74
21. Other circulatory disease.....	4	13	17
22. Influenza.....	0	1	1
23. Pneumonia.....	12	10	22
24. Bronchitis.....	11	9	20
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	1	0	1
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	3	0	3
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea....	1	1	2
28. Nephritis, nephrosis.....	2	0	2

TABLE OF DEATHS. (contd).

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	0	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion....	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations.. ..	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	24	12	36
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	4	0	4
34. Other accidents.....	6	3	9
35. Suicide.....	1	0	1
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	0	0	0
All causes.....	208	194	402

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis..... 0
- (b) From other maternal causes.. 0

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Age Periods						
		Under 1 year	1-2	3-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25+ known
Scarlet Fever	47	-	2	11	26	3	4	1
Whooping Cough	11	1	2	4	4	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis:								
Paralytic	3	-	-	1	2	-	-	-
Non-Paralytic	9	-	1	-	2	2	1	3
Measles	293	-	50	65	151	20	3	2
Diphtheria	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	17	1	1	-	2	1	2	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Encephalitis:								
Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric or Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fevers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
Meningococcal Infection	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	394	4	56	82	189	27	10	24
								2

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1952

(a)

(b)

Age Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	1	4	1	1	-	-	-	-
25	4	5	-	1	1	-	-	-
35	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
45	3	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	13	11	1	2	1	-	2	-

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation against diphtheria (and, where desirable, whooping-cough) continues to be carried out in schools and the Infant Welfare Centres in your District, by arrangements made with the Bucks County Council. It is also optional for all persons to choose to have this service performed by their elected doctor under the National Health Service Act (1946). Completed record cards are now required to be returned to the County Health Department by all services. Completed courses of immunisation (including A.P.T. and combined diphtheria-pertussis vaccine) amounted to 449 for the year 1952. This figure is based on the returns received in the County Health Department.

HOSPITALS.

The available hospitals in the District are the the High Wycombe War Memorial Hospital, Booker Hospital, Amersham General Hospital, Maidenhead Isolation Hospital, Canadian Red Cross Hospital, Taplow, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Aylesbury Isolation Hospital, Royal Bucks Hospital, Aylesbury, The Radcliffe Infirmary, Churchill Hospital and The Slade Hospital, Oxford, and the Battle Hospital, Reading.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The ambulance arrangements pertinent to your area, are as follows:-

Stations at High Wycombe and Princes Risborough.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47 - No formal action.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Frequent sampling has been carried out throughout the year. In all 57 samples have been taken.

The following is a representative report of a Chemical Analysis taken of a water typical of your area:-

	Parts Per 100,000	Grains Per Gallon.
Total solids (dried at 180°C.).....	31.0	21.7
Combined chlorine (Cl).....	1.3	0.9
equivalent to Sodium Chloride (Na Cl)..	2.2	1.5
Nitric nitrogen (Nitrates).....	0.36	0.25
Nitrous nitrogen (Nitrites).....	Nil	Nil
Ammoniacal nitrogen.....	Nil	Nil
Albuminoid nitrogen.....	0.0007	0.0005
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27°C.....	0.003	0.002
Lead or Copper.....	Nil	Nil
Temporary hardness (equivalent to Ca CO ₃)	23.0	16.1
Permanent hardness (" " ")	2.5	1.8
Total hardness (" " ")	25.5	17.9

The above results show this water to be of good quality and there is no evidence of any pollution.

Regular bacterial analyses of the raw waters at source were taken throughout the district. There were at times wide differences in bacterial counts from the boreholes at Well End and Chalkpit Lane.

On three occasions faecal coli were found to be present at the Well End borehole. An investigation of the immediate vicinity was made and as a purely preventive measure cesspits in the area found to be defective were repaired. This measure along with the prescription of a prohibited area for cesspool tipping helped towards clearing the contamination. The resultant analyses were found to be improved and by the end of the year the water was considered to be free from pollution and fit for drinking purposes.

DETAILS OF WATER SUPPLY.

Parish	Supplied direct by pipes into houses.		Supplied by Standpipes.	
	No. of Houses.	Popula- tion.	No. of Houses.	Population
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton.	417	1,490	20	70
Bradenham.....	31	112	-	-
Ellesborough.....	215	766	-	-
Fawley.....	51	180	-	-
Fingest.....	446	1,588	-	-
Hambleton.....	314	1,124	-	-
Hampden, Gt & Lt.....	91	326	-	-
Hedsor.....	25	89	-	-
Hughenden.....	1,224	4,221	30	109
Ibstone.....	71	250	-	-
Kimble, Gt & Lt.....	207	725	-	-
Lacey Green.....	310	1,092	-	-
Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....	90	310	-	-
Marlow, Gt.....	346	1,242	-	-
Marlow, Lt.....	206	742	-	-
Medmenham.....	101	348	-	-
Radnage.....	110	385	12	38
Princes Risborough.....	1,183	4,185	75	265
Stokenchurch.....	603	2,170	15	53
Turville.....	76	277	-	-
West Wycombe Rural.....	543	1,939	7	26
Wooburn.....	1,635	5,768	-	-
Wycombe, Chepping Rural	1,725	6,153	31	118
Totals.....	10,020	35,482	190	679

I am indebted to your Surveyor for the following table:-

CESSPOOL EMPTYING 1952.

<u>Parish.</u>	<u>No. of gallons of sewage removed.</u>
Bledlow-cum-Saunderton....	941,820
Chepping Wycombe Rural....	5,882,460
Ellesborough.....	639,375
Fawley.....	19,550
Fingest.....	1,682,400
Hambleton.....	512,400
Hampden, Gt & Lt.....	109,450
Hughenden.....	5,331,230
Ibstone.....	221,825
Kimble, Gt & Lt.....	463,975
Lacey Green.....	865,025
Longwick-cum-Ilmer.....	541,275
Marlow, Gt.....	526,495
Marlow, Lt.....	124,450
Medmenham.....	171,725
Radnage.....	438,900
Princes Risborough.....	189,325
Stokenchurch.....	3,059,980
Turville.....	234,725
West Wycombe Rural.....	1,169,350
Wooburn.....	4,663,150
Total....	<u>27,788,885</u>

RAINFALL, 1952.

I am indebted to the Director of The Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, for the following particulars of rainfall recorded during 1952.

Rainfall recorded at Princes Risborough

Station: 333 feet above sea level.

Month	Monthly Rain-fall.	No. of days on which rain fell with .01 or more measured.	Largest Rainfall	
			Date	Amount
January.....	1.64	17	4th	.36
February.....	0.64	9	13th & 17th	.11
March.....	2.45	20	4th	.45
April.....	1.85	17	19th	.31
May.....	2.62	15	19th	.69
June.....	0.78	12	12th	.19
July.....	0.47	6	11th	.30
August.....	3.72	15	18th	.84
September....	2.60	18	30th	.87
October.....	2.92	17	12th	.65
November.....	3.65	15	19th	.66
December.....	2.71	21	18th	.44
Totals.....	26.05	182		

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1952.

Public Health Department,
28, High Street,
High Wycombe.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Wycombe Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Herewith I beg to submit a Summary of the Work
carried out by the Department in the year 1952.

I am,

Mr Chairman, My Lord,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J.P. PERRY.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

FOREWORD.

The time has arrived to collate information for another annual report. The work of your sanitary officers could be recorded in statistical fashion, a method which I venture to suggest would excite the interest of a few but fail to give to the many a true evaluation of the work performed.

Sanitary administration, embracing applications of bacteriology and entomology, engineering and building construction, epidemiology, physiology and pathology, chemistry and physics and in some measure sociology is a component part of preventive medicine.

The value of preventive medicine should require little stressing when regard is had to the improvements which have been secured in connection with the environment of the people. Such improvements are in some measure related to housing, food, drainage and water supplies and are vividly reflected in the vital statistical figures of to-day.

Notwithstanding the improvements secured, constant and insistent attention is needed in order to achieve and maintain a satisfactory environment. It is against this background that the work of your sanitary officers is given an evaluation. In the pursuit of a clean atmosphere, good sanitation, wholesome drinking water and safe food, inspection work has proceeded throughout the year thereby making a valuable contribution in the important field of environmental hygiene.

The work is recorded under the following sections:-

Section A	HOUSING
Section B	WATER SUPPLIES
Section C	SANITATION
Section D	PEST INFESTATION CONTROL
Section E	SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES
Section F	FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES
Section G	MISCELLANEOUS

HOUSING.

The predominance and persistence of the housing problem again merits first consideration in the subjects to be reviewed.

Every local authority has a legacy of unrepaired houses left as a result of years of neglect and deterioration due to the inter-war, war and post war years. The problem affects different people in different ways.

There is the tenant living in a sub-standard house who justifiably feels that he is missing the standard necessities, comforts and amenities of housing to which he is entitled.

Next the landlord who may be content to accept a low level of rent in order to justify in his own mind the low standard of repair in the house he lets. Or again the landlord whose rent returns have remained basically stationary for twenty years or so, who has not maintained his property in all respects fit for human habitation and now has laid upon him a heavy burden of repair costs. Or again the landlord who has had property left to him - neglected investment property, the depredations of which extinguish assets and create liabilities which can only be shaken off with the property itself.

Next the sanitary inspector with the duty to inspect houses in his district and report to his Authority on the houses which are not in all respect fit for human habitation.

Then the local authority composed of members drawn from all walks of life and elected to carry out fairly and impartially the duties laid upon them by the housing statutes.

Finally there is the aspect of the Ministry of Local Government & Planning which must see the people properly housed as one important factor in maintaining and improving health.

To assess the problem of unfit houses in rural areas we must I think have regard to the report of the Rural Housing Sub Committee submitted in 1944. This report set out for its objectives -

- (a) A concentration of effort to restart rural housing activities on the widest possible scale.
- (b) The acceleration of the rate of progress to the maximum extent as labour and materials became available.
- (c) A fair allocation of labour and materials between town and country so that the rural population does not suffer.
- (d) A planned programme to bring rural housing conditions up to the highest possible level in a given period of years.

Objectives a, b and c are being achieved. With regard to (d) however the hopes of the Sub Committee have not materialised inasmuch as the repair and reconditioning of houses have not formed part of the planned progress of rural housing.

The failure to secure the repair and arrest the deterioration of houses is related to many factors which I have enumerated in previous reports. They include the priority given to new building work making repair work of secondary importance, high building costs, rent control, shortage of building labour and materials, imposition of building licences and restricted monetary ceilings, lack of housing standards enforceable by law and the undefined equivocal expression in the Housing Acts "reasonable expense".

As previously stated rent restriction is not the least of the factors affecting the problem of house repair. It is a subject of much controversy and one which your sanitary officers cannot ignore in the work in which they are engaged upon. Any modification of the rent restriction acts which may be secured will, it is hoped, result in satisfaction and justice both to the tenant and the owner and ensure that any increase that may be allowed will be conditioned on the fitness of the property.

As to the future there are signs that with the progress of new housing, wider recognition is being given to the preservation and improvement of older property. Direction from the central government giving impetus for slum clearance work to be resumed by local authorities may be anticipated, together with action for securing the repair of houses still worthy of perpetuation. Amendment of the rent restriction acts allowing rent increases conditional upon the fitness of property may be considered by the central government as being an important instrument in securing the repair and preservation of houses.

The provisions of the Housing Act 1949 which empowers local authorities to make grants for the improvement of existing houses call for some comment. The Act so far has not produced the volume of applications envisaged when it was placed on the statute book. The sixteen point standard of fitness prescribed almost invariably precludes the older types of property being eligible for grant, as compliance with the standard is often structurally and economically impossible in such cases.

There is evidence however that the wider publicity which is being given on the availability of the grants, which may now include tied and service cottages, is arousing greater interest. It can be expected therefore that the benefits of the grants will be sought in ever increasing numbers in order that houses which are structurally sound but deficient in amenities may be so improved as to provide satisfactory units of housing accommodation.

Your Council during the year under review, has again had to pursue the policy of securing "first aid" repairs to the sub-standard houses. Owing to the housing shortage anything in the nature of a slum clearance scheme has obviously been out of the question. Action taken under the Housing and Public Health Acts is detailed as follows:-

GENERAL.

Inspections and visits under the Housing Act 1936, and the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.....	149
Re-inspections.....	502
Inspections under the Public Health Act 1936.....	704
Re-inspections.....	592
Number of interviews with owners in respect of Housing Repairs, Plans and Specifications for reconditioning dwelling houses.....	527

SUMMARY OF INFORMAL NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Article 27 of the Sanitary Officer's (Outside London) Regulations, 1935 and of the Sanitary Officer's Order, 1936, in relation to Inspections and Notices etc.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served.	No. of Informal Notices and Letters.	Complied with.	Not complied with.
P.H.A. 1936, Sec. 92 (1) (a).....	201	178	23
" " " 259.....	6	6	-
" " " 92 (1) (b).....	15	11	4
" " " 92 (1) (c).....	11	9	2
" " " 39.....	14	12	2
" " " 44-45.....	19	14	5
" " " 75.....	21	16	5
" " " 56.....	5	5	-
" " " 141.....	3	3	-
" " " 39 (1) (b).....	28	22	6
" " " 39 (1) (d).....	2	2	-
" " " 138.....	31	27	4
Totals.....	356	305	51

SUMMARY OF STATUTORY NOTICES AND RESULTS OF SAME.

Acts and Sections under which Notices were served	No. of Notices.	Com- plied with.	Work in progress at end of year.	Notices not complied with.	Prosecu- tions.
P.H.A. 1936, Sec. 92 (1) (a)	16	10	4	2	-
" " 259.....	-	-	-	-	-
" " 92 (1) (b)	-	-	-	-	-
" " 92 (1) (c)	-	-	-	-	-
" " 39.....	2	2	-	-	-
" " 44-45.....	2	2	-	-	-
" " 75.....	-	-	-	-	-
" " 56.....	-	-	-	-	-
" " 141.....	-	-	-	-	-
" " 39 (1) (b)	4	3	-	-	-
" " 39 (1) (d)	-	-	-	-	-
" " 138.....	4	2	-	-	-
Totals.....	28	19	4	2	-

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

- (a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 & 16 of the Housing Act 1936:-
- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs (informal notices)..... 5
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring repairs..... -
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of notice:-
 - (a) By owners..... 5
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... -
- (b) Proceedings under Section 11,12 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936:-
- (1) Number of dwelling houses dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act 1936..... 30
 - (2) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made..... 2
 - (3) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which closing orders were made..... 2
 - (4) Number of dwelling houses of which the Council have accepted undertakings from the owners..... 15
 - (5) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders..... 8
 - (6) Number of dwelling houses repaired as a result of undertakings given by owners..... 5
- (c) Proceedings under Section 92 (1)(a) of the Public Health Act 1936:-
- (1) Number of unfit or defective houses rendered fit as a result of informal/formal action..... 72

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV. Overcrowding:-

- (a) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... 6
- (b) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.. 10

WORKS EXECUTED AS A RESULT OF NOTICES.

Dwelling house roofs repaired.....	59
" " eaves gutters repaired or provided where missing.....	43
" " brickwork to walls, chimney stacks, etc., made good.....	32
" " woodwork to windows repaired.....	17
" " interior plaster made good.....	28
" " windows made to open for the purpose of ventilation.....	7
" " woodwork to stairs, floor etc., made good.....	36
" " dampness remedied.....	48
" " interior walls cleansed and re-decorated.....	25
" " cooking arrangements, etc., rendered serviceable.....	14
" " outbuildings repaired.....	7
Miscellaneous Works.....	24
Dwelling house drains cleansed, ventilated or made sound.....	29
" " new drainage system provided.....	16
" " " cesspools provided.....	24
E.C's or privies converted to W.C's.....	17
Closets repaired.....	12
New W.C's constructed.....	10
House sinks provided.....	14
Sanitary ashbins provided.....	11
Accumulation nuisances abated.....	12
Animal nuisances abated.....	6
Yards paved and drained.....	5
Houses connected to public water mains.....	32

SECTION 'B'

WATER SUPPLIES.

Your Council's district is covered extensively with a network of water mains under the control of various water undertakings as follows:-

1. Wycombe Rural District Council.
2. Wycombe Borough Council.
3. The Rickmansworth & Uxbridge Valley Water Company.
4. The Amersham, Beaconsfield & District Water Company.
5. The Marlow Water Company.
6. The Bucks Water Board.

Ilmer is the only hamlet at present without a main water supply. Chemical and bacteriological examination of water taken from the few deep wells serving this hamlet have failed to reveal that the water is unwholesome. No doubt however the water main will be extended to this area in the near future.

Despite the network of mains many houses still derive their water from shallow wells and rain water tanks. This is accounted for by economic factors, isolation of some houses from mains and prejudices by persons to maintain their existing form of water supply.

Supervision of water supplies has formed an important part of your sanitary officers work, and sampling has been carried out wherever deemed to be necessary. Of the 57 samples taken during the year and submitted for chemical/bacteriological examination 27 were reported upon as being unsatisfactory. In some cases the mains were not within a reasonable distance of the properties and your Council approved main extensions of a minor character. In other cases where the water was found to be contaminated, the owners were requested to connect the houses to the water mains, and in most cases compliance was secured as the result of informal action.

SECTION 'C'

SANITATION.

The network of water mains throughout the district represents a fine achievement. Unfortunately we are without a network of sewers. In 1950 I stated that it is to be regretted that main drainage lags retarded by high capital costs, and that owing to economic factors it may well be that the pre-war concept of a few big sewage plants may have to give way to a wider distribution of smaller plants.

Much of the drainage work dealt with by your sanitary officers relate to those abominations the cesspool and the pail closet. The rural housing survey carried out in 1947/48 revealed that of a total of 7,749 houses surveyed within a limit of £18 rateable value, 36.1% of the total had closets of the dry conservancy system. Of the same total of houses 74.8% were drained to cesspools.

The deficiencies of the cesspool drainage system are well known. Limitation on the sanitary services of the house, insufficient notice requiring a cesspool emptying service immediately, overflowing cesspools, offensive odours during cesspool emptying operations, potential threat of pollution of water supplies, difficulties of building cesspools in ground where the water level is high and difficulties of disposing of the sewage after emptying are to mention some of the inadequacies of the system.

The problem of cesspools become more urgent as piped water supplies become available. The introduction of a piped water supply makes the provision of main drainage even more inescapable, in order to ensure a satisfactory planned system of disposal of the waste products of human living.

SECTION 'D'

PEST INFESTATION CONTROL.

The damage caused by rats and mice throughout the country results in an annual loss of many millions of pounds. Deaths among humans occur from diseases associated with rodents. With the urgent necessity of conserving world food supplies and protecting man from disease, rodent extermination becomes a factor of major importance.

The official measures adopted to overcome this enormous loss and threat to public health are contained in the Prevention of Pests Act, 1949. This Act clearly defines the duties of the owner and occupier and the local authority in the work of rodent extermination. It must be remembered that rodent control is a community responsibility and the co-operation of the public is important in this respect. This co-operation can be translated into action by occupiers carrying out their statutory duty of notifying the local authority when rats and mice are living on or resorting to their land in substantial numbers.

Pest control is now accepted as a science which to be used effectively requires planning, trained personnel, special equipment and suitable materials. New and more effective poisons are being provided as a result of research work.

Your Council's rodent control service has been consistently applied throughout the year. As the result of survey and notification by occupiers of infested premises extermination of rats/mice has been carried out at dwelling houses, factory premises, food premises, offices, sewers, refuse tips etc.

Details of the work carried out during the year are submitted herewith:-

Type of Property	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses	Agri-cultural	All other (including Business & Industrial).	Total
I. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	12	11,600	287	715	12,614
II. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (a) notification or (b) otherwise.	(a) Nil (b) 12	274 4,100	Nil 94	10 540	284 4,734
III. Number of properties (under II) found to be infested by rats.	Major Nil Minor 4	6 312	4 37	4 29	14 382
IV. Number of properties (under II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	Nil	28	1	3	32
V. Number of infested properties (under III and IV) treated by the Local Authority	4	335 (includes minor mice infestation).	Nil	15	354
VI. Number of notices served under Section 4: (1) Treatment (2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	Nil Nil	Nil Nil	2 Nil	Nil Nil	2 Nil
VII. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4.	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1
VIII. Legal Proceedings	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	1
IX. Number of "Block" control schemes carried out.	Nil				

SECTION 'E'

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

In recent years there has been a nation wide improvement in the way food is prepared, handled and distributed. More and more attention is being directed to these matters and in particular the reports of the Manufactured Meat Products Working Party and the Catering Trade Working Party emphasise this trend.

It is to be remembered however that personal hygiene is the foundation of hygienic food handling. No other factor or combination of factors has so vital a bearing on the standards of hygiene in food premises. Clean food handlers can produce clean wholesome food in premises with little equipment, but food prepared in kitchens with the most elaborate fittings may be unsafe if staffed by dirty food handlers.

Your sanitary officers play an important part in helping to secure improved conditions and practices. Food premises including catering establishment, and retail food shops of various trades have been the subject of routine inspections. Attention has been focussed on such matters as planning and construction of premises, cleanliness of rooms, utensils and personnel, hot and cold water supplies, drainage, freedom from insect and vermin infestation, storage of food etc.

In the year under review a complete survey of public houses was carried out and the conditions revealed formed the subject of a special report to your Authority.

Cafes, Restaurants and Food Shops.

With the threat of food poisoning ever present, hygienic handling of food has been regarded of primary importance and food premises visited accordingly in order to stimulate interest in this matter.

The liaison between your Council's officers and the Ministry of Food has continued with respect to the issue of catering licences. This early approach before the establishment of the business enables an effective control to be exercised and ensures that the premises conform to certain satisfactory standards. Work carried out as a result of visits is summarised herewith:-

Number of visits to food premises.....	478
" " " " premises which have been made the the subject of applications for catering licences..	16
Food rooms redecorated.....	17
" " repaired (floors, walls, ceilings, windows)	7
Wash basins provided.....	2
New sanitary accommodation provided.....	2
Provision of constant hot water supply.....	5
Rodent infestations dealt with.....	12
Additional ventilation provided.....	3
Refuse receptacles provided.....	4

Ice-cream.

It has been estimated that some seventy million gallons of ice-cream are consumed annually in this country. Under certain conditions ice-cream is an ideal medium for the propagation and transmission of bacteria which is pathogenic to man. The Food & Drugs Act 1938 and the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment etc.) Regulations, 1947 recognise the possible dangers and contain provisions controlling the methods of manufacturing, storing and selling the commodity.

There has been no change in the number of persons manufacturing ice-cream within the area, and each of the manufacturers resort to a cold mix method. The number of purveyors has increased by eleven on the previous year.

During the year 95 samples of ice-cream were procured and submitted to a public health laboratory for bacteriological examination. The samples were subjected to the methylene blue test and subsequently classified in accordance with the Ministry of Health's recommended scheme for the grading of ice-cream.

The results of such tests are set forth below and may be regarded as being of a satisfactory character:-

Number of manufacturers of ice-cream...	4
" " retailers of ice-cream.....	56
" " new premises registered.....	11

<u>Number of samples submitted for examination.</u>	<u>Grading.</u>
57	Grade 1
25	" 2
7	" 3
6	" 4

In cases where samples were reported upon as Grade 3 or 4 check samples were taken and subsequent reports gave improved gradings.

Milk.

Milk production and distribution is a vast industry. An adequate supply of good quality milk is of the utmost importance in relation to improvement of national health.

Tendency to classify milk as an agricultural product to the neglect of its significance as a food in relation to health is to be guarded against. The compositional quality of milk needs greater emphasis.

The Government policy of eventually restricting the sale of milk to that which is Tuberculin Tested or heat-treated is receiving implementation.

It has been suggested that much could be done to reduce the transport and handling of milk.

Legislation changes in recent years have resulted in the following apportionment of duties viz:-

Supervision of production of milk and elimination of disease of bovine origin - The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Supervision of distribution and processing of milk and prevention of adulteration - The Ministry of Food and Local Authorities.

Control of infected milk and of milk handlers affected by disease - Ministry of Health and Local Authorities.

While Local Authorities retain their powers to deal with adulterated milk or milk unfit for human consumption, the testing of milk for keeping quality and marketability has been, broadly speaking, taken over by the Dairy Trade.

Your Council's statutory duties are now related to the distribution of milk, necessitating registration of dairies and dairymen, supervision of conditions and processes in dairies, issuing supplementary licences for the sale of designated milk and helping to ensure that milk may be consumed by the public with safety.

Infected milk has claimed increasing attention. As the result of reports received in connection with milk infected with disease communicable to man, action was necessary in thirty-one cases. The action demanded service of notices requiring heat treatment of milk, sampling of milk and withdrawal of the notices when the milk was subsequently found to be free from infection.

The following information relates to administrative work in connection with the Milk & Dairies Act and Regulations:-

Number of cases of milk infected with tubercle bacilli..	7
" " " " " " " brucella.....	24
" " visits to dairy premises.....	172
" " registered dairies.....	12
New dairy premises registered.....	Nil
Number of registered dairymen.....	12
" " dealers licences issued to use designation "Pasteurised".....	10
" " " " " " to use designation "Tuberculin Tested"	12
" " supplementary licences issued to use designation "Pasteurised"	2
" " " " " issued to use designation "Tuberculin Tested"..	2
" " licences issued to use designation "Sterilised"..	3
" " milk samples taken for bacteriological examination.....	12
" " " " " " biological examination.....	82

Meat Inspection.

The slaughtering arrangements relating to the district are as outlined in preceding reports. The home-killed meat allocated for the Wycombe Rural Area continues to be sent from a slaughterhouse situated in an adjoining Authority's area.

Certain private slaughterhouses in your Council's area have been re-licensed in order to assist in the Ministry of Food's scheme of pig killing for self suppliers. In this connection I have previously drawn attention to the absence of legal control with respect to notification of slaughter, inspection of carcasses and seizure of meat unfit for human consumption. Occupiers of these premises are however encouraged to notify the local authority when killing occurs, in order that post-mortem examination of the animals may be made.

The Government policy of moderate concentration of slaughterhouses throughout Great Britain has resulted in the appointment of an Inter-Departmental Committee to prepare a plan recommending the localities in England and Wales where slaughterhouses, (apart from those in bacon factories), should be sited.

Thus the future framework of the slaughtering industry is still awaited. The ultimate aim must of course be to supply to the consumer the best quality meat in perfectly fresh condition free from disease and at the lowest possible price.

Food surrendered for destruction as a result of being unfit for human consumption is detailed below. In one case it was found necessary to seize a quantity of meat which was unfit for human consumption. After full consideration of the circumstances your Council decided not to institute summary proceedings.

Beef.....	297 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	Canned Evaporated Milk....	13 lbs. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ oz
Ox Head & Tongue..	59 lbs.	" Greengages..	32 lbs.
Ox Liver.....	10 lbs. 8 oz.	" Prunes.....	1 lb. 2 oz.
Beef Sausages.....	76 lbs.	" Ham.....	176 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Pork.....	16 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.	" Luncheon Meat	67 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Pigs Liver.....	5 lbs.	" Peas.....	10 lbs.
Veal.....	48 lbs.	" Jam.....	2 lbs.
Rabbits.....	144 lbs.	" Steak.....	2 lbs.
Bacon.....	21 lbs.	" Salmon.....	1 lb.
		" Vegetables..	8 lbs.

Public Houses.

During the year under review a survey was made of all the public houses in your Council's area. In determining the conditions existing attention was primarily directed to the following:-

- (a) facilities for the washing and sterilising of receptacles, (glasses, tankards, etc.).
- (b) sanitary accommodation.
- (c) risk of lead poisoning from the use of beer raising apparatus.

Of a total of 138 premises inspected 6 were owner/occupied.

With regard to (a) it was found that there were devious methods employed in the washing of glasses etc. The Brewers Society have pursued the problem of finding a simple yet effective method of washing and sterilising beer glasses. It is now considered that the simplest solution of the problem is the employment in the rinse water behind the bar, of certain quarternary ammonium compounds which have a quick killing action on any bacteria remaining on the glass after use. It is necessary however to ensure the automatic delivery of the sterilising agent if the operation is to be successful.

In connection with (b) it was found that in many cases improvements were necessary with regard to the sanitary accommodation.

Finally in consideration of (c) it was determined that to a great extent the old practice of drawing beer straight from a cask into a glass or tankard had been superseded by the modern method of keeping the casks in the cellars and using apparatus to raise beer from the cellars to the serveries through pipes. Attention was paid to the methods employed in the cleansing of the beer engines and the pipe lines. No lead or rubber piping was found to be in use, the pipes consisting of such materials as plastic, glass, porcelain and stainless steel.

Reports of the survey were circulated to the brewers controlling the premises. It is pleasing to record that the brewers have generally readily responded to the recommendations made to effect improvements where necessary in relation to sink waste drainage arrangements, hot and cold water services, repair of rooms, sanitary accommodation etc, and thus secure better conditions for the hygienic service of beer.

SECTION 'F'

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.

Factories, Workshops.

Supervision of factories in which mechanical power is both used and not used has formed an important part of your sanitary officers' duties.

Matters dealt with have included means of escape in case of fire, water supplies, sanitary accommodation, drainage etc. In addition to the provisions of the Factories Act 1937 which required enforcement in certain cases, public health nuisances from smoke emission claimed attention.

Lists of outworkers received in February and August 1952 from employers in pursuance of Section 110 of the Factories Act 1937, returned 70 houseworkers in various specified occupations, principally in the making and altering of wearing apparel. Two lists of outworkers residing in other areas were sent to the local authorities concerned and lists of outworkers in your Council's district were received from three local authorities.

As previously instanced, although there is legislative control of public health matters affecting persons in factories and workshops there is a notable omission in this respect with regard to persons employed in offices. Inadequate lighting, ventilation, sanitary accommodation, washing facilities and overcrowding may occur and satisfactory standards of environmental hygiene ignored. The implementation of the Gowers report on this subject is still awaited.

Inspection work and the subsequent action resulting are tabled below:-

1. INSPECTIONS MADE FOR PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	Number on Register	Inspection tations	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.....	14	27	1	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.....	153	171	23	Nil
(3) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises).....	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Total.....	167	198	24	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness.....	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding.....	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation..	1	1	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors.....	1	1	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences -					
(a) Insufficient.....	5	5	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.....	16	14	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes.....	3	2	-	1	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).....	-	-	-	-	-
Total	26	23	-	3	-

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	No. of out wor- kers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of de- fault in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instan- ces of work in unwhole- some premises.	Noti- ces Served.	Prose- cutions.
Wearing apparel Making etc.	52	-	-	-	-	-
Household linen	11	-	-	-	-	-
Lace, lace cur- tains and nets	7	-	-	-	-	-
Total	70	-	-	-	-	-

Rag Flock.

The Rag Flock & Other Filling Materials Act which came into operation in 1951, forbids the use of filling materials to which the Act applies for such purposes as upholstery and the stuffing of bedding, toys and baby carriages except on premises registered by a local authority. Standards of cleanliness of filling materials are given by Regulations and penalties are prescribed for using unclean material.

The necessity for preventing dirty filling material being placed in bedding mattresses and upholstery will be generally recognised when regard is had to the close association such articles have with man during that period of life related to sleep and casual rest.

Administration of the Act has required visits to registered premises, checking of records and sampling of filling materials. Information relating to such inspection work is recorded below:-

Number of registered premises..... 19
 Number of samples submitted for cleanliness test... 26
 Number of samples conforming to a satisfactory
 standard..... 25

In one instance a sample of rag flock did not comply with the prescribed standard of cleanliness. After full consideration of the circumstances of this case your Council decided not to institute summary proceedings.

SECTION 'G'

MISCELLANEOUS.

Moveable Dwellings.

Caravans in your Council's area number approximately 200. All the camping sites are in private ownership. Generally each site accommodates a single caravan and in a few instances sites contain up to ten caravans. A high proportion of caravans is used for continual occupation owing to housing shortage and economic factors.

Contact with this type of occupation discloses the inadequacy of such living accommodation. The chief essential lacking is space, and although many vans are excellently furnished to make good use of the small space available, this difficulty is insuperable. Lack of privacy and cramped quarters are the problems to be faced by the family unit which includes children.

In most cases the caravans are of the trailer type. Pseudo-caravans such as old bus or other public service vehicle bodies, converted pantechinons, glider fuselages and other make-shifts should be excluded from sites if possible as they are unsightly and tend to become fixtures.

Your Council have approved a site which will be used for seasonal holiday camping. This site will eventually accommodate up to 50 caravans. A development of this kind will provide in your Council's area a new feature with respect to moveable dwellings.

In controlling the use of caravans your Authority have had to try to resolve the problems arising from the prodigious increase of the use of caravans for recreational pursuit and the use of caravans often providing semi-permanent sub-standard housing accommodation and reconcile these needs to housing and public health standards and protection of existing amenities.

Visits to sites and licences issued are recorded below:-

Number of visits for inspection of sites and dwellings.....	274
Number of licences issued.....	68
Caravans removed from sites as a result of Council's intention to institute summary proceedings for licence contraventions.....	2

Pet Animals Act, 1951.

This Act regulates the sale of pet animals making provision for the licensing of pet animal shops and imposing conditions for the animals to be accommodated and cared for in a satisfactory manner.

One shop has been licenced in your Council's area for the sale of pet animals.

Infectious Diseases.

Visits have been made in connection with cases of notifiable infectious diseases. Relevant information with regard to the history of the cases obtained and recorded, contacts checked and disinfection of rooms and bedding carried out. Details of the department's work is indicated below:-

Number of visits paid.....	95
" " re-visits.....	32
" " premises disinfected (tuberculosis)...	27
" " " " (other infectious diseases....	62

CONCLUSION.

The report which I have submitted will I trust give some indication of the importance of the work of all engaged in public health administration, and emphasise the responsible task entrusted to local authorities by legislation which is designed to safeguard the health of the public.

